

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NRC-05 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

NSC-05 /094 W

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R 181650Z DEC 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO STATE WASHDC 1364

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

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USNMR SHAPE

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FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: PUBLIC AFFAIRS: LAHODA POST-PLENARY PRESS
CONFERENCE, DECEMBER 18, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: HEAD OF CZECH DELEGATION, TOMAS
LAHODA, PRESENTED EASTERN PRESS STATEMENT AFTER DECEMBER 18
PLENARY. BEFORE APPROXIMATELY 25-30 WORKING MEDIA
REPRESENTATIVES, LAHODA BRIEFLY ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO SOME
GENERAL AS WELL AS SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF VIENNA TALKS.
APPEALING TO HELSINKI, CZECH SPOKESMAN REPEATED
STANDARD EASTERN LINEON WHAT AN ACCEPTABLE TROOP REDUCTION
AGREEMENT MUST INCLUDE AND EXCLDUE. IN PARTICULAR HE
MENTIONED FORCE DEFINITION DISCUSSIONS CARRIED ON IN
SEVENTH ROUND, AND BLAMED UNREALISTIC WESTERN CONCEPTS
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FOR FACT THAT AGREEMENT WAS NOT REACHED ON DEFINITIONS.

2. DEALING WITH OPTION III OFFER, LAHODA RESHUFFLED MAIN SEGMENTS OF KHLESTOV'S PLENARY COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT: (A) THAT SOCIALIST STATES HAVE ASKED FOR SUCH REDUCTIONS FROM OUTSET OF TALKS; (B) THAT WEST DECLARED ITS READINESS TO INCLUDE REDUCTION OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF AMERICAN TACTICAL WEAPONS ONLY, AND (C) THAT THEREFORE SIMILAR WEAPONS PRESENTLY "OWNED BY ALMOST ALL WESTERN STATES" IN REDUCTION AREA HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN WESTERN "MODIFICATION". LAHODA CONCLUDED PRESENTATION WITH VIRTUALLY SAME WORDS USED IN KHLESTOV PLENARY STATEMENT: "NATURALLY, THE WEST'S NEW MODIFICATION (SIC) WILL BE EXAMINED BY US AS USUAL".

3. SPARSE FOLLOW-UP QS AND AS (SEPTTEL) REFLECTED LAHODA'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO ANY FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1. THE SEVENTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS LASTING FOR ALMOST THREE MONTHS CAME TO AN END. IN A GOOD AND FAVOURABLE WORKING ATMOSPHERE ENABLING US TO UNDERSTAND BETTER MUTUAL POSITIONS WE HAVE BEEN INTENSIVELY DISCUSSING WITH OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES THE PROBLEM HOW TO PROCEED ON THE ROAD SET UP BY US TWO YEARS AGO AND THE GOAL OF WHICH SHOULD BE THE REDUCTION OF THE HIGH CONCENTRATION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA OF CENTRAL EUROPE. THIS GOAL WAS ALSO CONFIRMED BY THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE. THAT IS WHY AFTER HELSINKI THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC CONCENTRATES UPON VIENNA BECAUSE IN THIS QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION THE POLITICAL DETENTE SHOULD EXPAND IN OTHER FIELDS AS WELL. THIS FACT WAS EXPRESSED LAST WEEK BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION L.I. BREZHNEV AT THE 7TH CONGRESS OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY IN THE FOLLOWING WAY: "...NATURALLY, THE PROBLEMS OF THE MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETENTE ARE NOW PARTICULARLY TOPICAL. THE PROGRESS IN THIS SPHERE - FOR WHICH WE SINCERELY STRIVE - COULD SUBSTANTIALLY BE FURTHERED BY THE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE..." THIS TASK MAKES HIGH DEMANDS ON THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE DELEGATIONS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE VIENNA TALKS.

2. WHAT, UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IS FROM OUR STANDPOINT MOST IMPORTANT AND WHAT DID WE WANT TO SOLVE DURING THE SEVENTH ROUND AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE IN THE HOFBURG?

3. PRIMARILY TO ELUCIDATE THE FACT THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD ASSUME EQUAL OBLIGATIONS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS OF REDUCTIONS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. WHILE THE FOUR SOCIALIST STATES DECLARED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DO SO FROM THE OUTSET OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE WEST EUROPEAN STATES AND CANADA THE ARMED FORCES OF WHICH AMOUNT TO MORE THAN 75 PER CENT OF THE GENERAL NATO-CONTINGENTS ARE NOT HENCEFORTH WILLING TO PROCEED IN THE SAME SPIRIT AND TO UNDERTAKE THE SAME OBLIGATIONS. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SOCIALIST STATES HAVE NEVER TRIED TO COMPEL THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN NEGOTIATIONS TO ASSUME OBLIGATIONS WHICH THEY WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO ASSUME THEMSELVES AND TO FULFIL CONSISTENTLY. THE CONCEPT OF MUTUAL, EQUAL AND EQUITABLE OBLIGATIONS OF ALL STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE SOCIALIST DELEGATIONS CORRESPONDS STRICTLY TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NEGOTIATIONS AND PRESERVES THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES WHICH DEVELOPED HISTORICALLY AND WHICH ENABLED US TO START THESE TALKS. IN OUR EFFORTS TO MATERIALIZE A CONCRETE AND REALISTIC PROGRAMME OF SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS WE PROPOSED IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST TWO YEARS TO CONCLUDE AT LEAST THE AGREEMENTS ON SOME PARTIAL MEASURES WHICH WOULD ASSIST US IN OUR ACTIVITIES IN A PRACTICAL WAY.

4. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL A SUFFICIENTLY BROAD LIST OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS, AMENDMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SUGGESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. WITH GOOD WILL AND THE CORRESPONDING DEGREE OF CO-OPERATION WITHOUT PRETENSIONS TO GAIN ONE-SIDE ADVANTAGES IT MAKES POSSIBLE TO CHOOSE AND DECIDE SUCH A PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL MUTUAL REDUCTIONS OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS.

5. IN THE COURSE OF THE SEVENTH ROUND THE SOCIALIST DELEGATIONS TRIED TO ACHIEVE APPROVAL IN ANOTHER PARTIAL QUESTION. I HAVE IN MIND THE PROPOSAL OF THE DEFINITION DIVIDING THE ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTION, FOR

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ACTION ACDA-10

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FROM US REP MBFR

THE PURPOSES OF NEGOTIATIONS, INTO THE GROUND FORCES
AND THE AIR FORCES. ALSO THIS INITIATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST
STATES WAS MOTIVATED BY SINCERE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS
IN THIS PARTICULAR FIELD WHICH WOULD AGAIN POSITIVELY
REFLECT UPON THE SOLUTION OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS. THOUGH WE
WERE NOT ABLE TO SOLVE THIS QUESTION TO A FULL EXTENT, WE
ATTAINED HERE A CERTAIN DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING. SINCE THE
WESTERN DELEGATIONS WERE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FOR-
MULATION OF THE PRINCIPLE ACCORDING TO WHICH THE SAME OR
SIMILAR TYPES OF FORCES ON BOTH SIDES WOULD BE ALLOCATED
TO THE SAME CATEGORIES OF ARMED FORCES, OUR WORK-TEMPORA-
RILY AS WE BELIEVE-CAME TO A STANDSTILL. THE BASIC CAUSE
WHY WE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN MOVING FORWARD IN THIS PARTIAL
QUESTION CONSISTS FURTHER IN THE FACT THAT OUR WESTERN
PARTNERS ACCORDING TO THEIR UNREALISTIC CONCEPT OF AN
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ASYMMETRIC MODEL INTEND TO MAINTAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARBITRARY ALLOCATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL TYPES OF FORCES INTO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF ARMED FORCES AS IT WOULD COMPLY WITH THEIR THEORY ON THE SO-CALLED DISPROPORTIONS.

6. IN OUR OPINION, THE MAIN STUMBLING-BLOCK IMPEDING US TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS CONSISTS IN THE UNREALISTIC AND UNFOUNDED APPROACH OF NATO-STATES-DIRECT PARTICIPANTS-TO PROMOTE ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS AND IN THEIR REFUSING TO AGREE TO REDUCTIONS OF ALL TYPES OF ARMAMENTS AND COMBAT EQUIPMENT OF THE FORCES OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AS WELL AS IN THE UNWILLINGNESS OF WEST EUROPEAN STATES AND CANADA TO ASSUME CONCRETE OBLIGATIONS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

7. IN CONCLUSION OF THIS SHORT BRIEFING OF THE SEVENTH ROUND I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW MODIFICATION OF THE WESTERN APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF A PART OF US NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS OF WHICH WE WERE INFORMED ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLENARY SESSION ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16. AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE PRESS IN THE WEST COMMENTED OFFICIALLY.

8. THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN FROM THE OUTSET OF NEGOTIATIONS CONSISTENTLY FURTHERING REDUCTIONS OF ALL TYPES OF ARMAMENTS AND COMBAT EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IT IS PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND THE UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS THAT ALL STATES-DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN NEGOTIATIONS-SHOULD REDUCE IN AGREED TERMS-BY APPROXIMATELY 15 PER CENT THEIR ARMED FORCES INCLUDING THE UNITS AND SUB-UNITS EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SUCH AN APPROACH CORRESPONDS TO A FULL EXTENT TO THE AGREED SUBJECT-MATTER OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH IS THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

9. THE WESTERN STATES DECLARED THAT THEY WERE READY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCLUDE INTO THE REDUCTIONS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF AMERICAN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ONLY AND ONLY UNDER THE CONDITION THAT THE SOCIALIST STATES ACCEPT THE SCHEME OF REDUCTIONS SUGGESTED BY WESTERN STATES WHICH SUFFERS-AS WE HAVE

ALREADY SHOWN MANY A TIME-FROM GRAVE SHORTCOMINGS. AS YOU KNOW, THE MEANS OF DELIVERY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE AT PRESENT OWNED BY ALMOST ALL WESTERN STATES THE ARMED FORCES OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. WE THEREFORE CANNOT IGNORE THAT THESE FACTS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE WESTERN MODIFICATION. NEITHER CAN WE IGNORE THAT THE SUGGESTED MEASURES ESSENTIALLY DO NOT CONTAIN ANY LIMITATIONS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF A FURTHER INCREASE OF BOTH THE AIR FORCES AND THE MEANS OF DELIVERY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

10. THIS IS ALL I WANTED TO SAY AT THIS STAGE WITH REGARD TO THIS QUESTION. NATURALLY, THE NEW MODIFICATION OF THE WEST WILL BE EXAMINED BY US AS USUALLY.
END TEXT.RESOR

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